

# NATIONAL REPORT OF HUNGARY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION

Hungarian Government to the UN Commission  
on Women at its forty-four session held at the  
General Assembly, New York, in June 2000.

Submitted by the H  
ungarian Government  
on the Status of  
Women in the  
United States

The contribution of the Ministries, experts  
of civil organisations and the government  
in the most areas of the Office for Women Issues.

from September 1995 and July 1999.

The government report was compiled  
from state organisations, written co-  
operation report based on the overview of sev-

This national report covers the period

Budapest, July 1999



# I. OVERVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES PERFORMED IN THE AREA OF THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN AND CONCERNING THE PROMOTION OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES.

## The Hungarian National Machinery and the changes introduced in the period of 1995-

Machinery was introduced in 1994, in the form of a Government Resolution with the purpose of ensuring Women's Equal Status. The Hungarian Resolution with the purpose of which was the implementation of the National Machinery of Hungary. The administrative body of the name of the Office for Women's Policies, within the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, started its activities in 1994. It was later altered into the Office of Equal Opportunities.

of the advancement of women in Hungary. The Office of Equal Opportunities was not represented at the national and local levels of state administration. In the course of the implementation of this Action and inter-ministerial Committee was formed, which had two sessions during the period of time. The objectives of the committee was defined as the co-ordination of government administrative measures taken to ensure women's equal opportunities.

After the general elections, the new government cancelled the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and established the Ministry of Social and Family Affairs.

The Office of Equal Opportunities was re-organised and had been affiliated to the Social and Community Relations Department within the Ministry of Social and Family Affairs.

The Hungarian Government issued the 1059/1999. (V. 28.) resolution on the establishment of the Council for Women's Issues on May 28, 1999. This council is formed within the Ministry of Social and Family Affairs.

The reforms in the administrative structures for the representation of various social interests. The 1st meeting of the Committee probably will be in September.

### The responsibilities of the Council for Women's Issues:

1. To advise on the programming for action in the matter of legislation which are concerned with gender equality, to initiate new programmes and adjustments to legislation for the enhancement of equal opportunities."
2. To contribute/take part implementation of the programmes sponsored by intentional and national resources, in the development and announcement of research and action programme funds and the requirements for participation.
3. To review the reports and information documents concerning women's equal opportunities.

The Council consists of the following representatives:

The inter-ministerial committee has been cancelled and a new committee has been formed with member in the ranks of Head of department from each of the Ministries, and the Prime Minister's Office.

Six members of the Council have been delegated by civic organisations with a nation-wide scope of activities, the six representatives are appointed as members of the Minister of Social and Family Affairs.

Five members of the Council are appointed by the Minister of Social and Family Affairs from among experts who have shown outstanding results in their research and theoretical and practical work concerning the gender question.

These members are proposed by the Minister of Social and Family Affairs from among representatives of civic organisations which have distinguished themselves by working for equal opportunities for men and women.

The Government calls on the ministers, directors of state institutions that the Council shall be

in charge of the implementation of the Council's proposals, the government departments, the preparation of equal opportunities shall include the Council's report and its supporting

side of the Council for Women's Issues functions as a inter-ministerial

The gover

the matters of women's advancement, and to monitor and co-ordinate their implementation.

# Programme for Action, 1997, The Implementation of Resolutions Women's World Conference, Beijing Platform for Action

Since 1995 – presumably as a result of the national programme initiated on the basis of the adopted resolutions of the Beijing Conference and the preparatory process for joining the EU

activities initiated by NGOs with the purpose of implementing the measures taken by the government increased in number and have strengthened in

of Europe with the title "Equal Opportunities" of Women and Men. The seminar of

which women took place in Central and Eastern Europe and the World Conference

the rights of women in Budapest in October 1996. The framing of the ILO

employment was organised in November 1996.

status of women. The In May 1997 the Parliament held an "open day" for the discuss

26) resolution for the implementation of the resolutions of the Government issued the 2174

tion. In Warsaw, a seminar was organised titled "The drawn up in the Beijing Plat

society. In October, 1997, Government delegates, and Development of Women's R

took part. delegates of governmental or

held with titled "WOMEN'98 – Women in Business" In November 1998, a confere

Office of Equal Opportunities, whose objective was to A former government body

led a media campaign in 1997/1998. The main message improve women's status in so

successful in different areas of life, not only victims of of this campaign was that wo

es. supporters of men

A museum exhibition may also become a means of raising publicy. An exhibition

organised titled "Women's Lives" by the Office of Equal Opportunities, in 1997. It cover

one hundred years of wome

those items of the Program

involvement into the national programme for Action of the inter-ministerial

The responsibilities of the ministers should also be more clearly identified.

re the Council for Women's Issues' work may be made more effective regarding the

ation and the evaluation/assessment of the programmes.

successful sections of the National Programme for Action were the ones dealing with

the human jobs. The studies carried out on the implementation of the 2000

examples of legislation in Hungarian were the most determining factors in the representation of

Several important steps were taken in order to implement the Beijing Platform for Action when

the introduction of women's  
ment decisions. This existing co-  
inter-ministerial committee provided

the co-operation between the non-governmental  
committee were initiated. These initiatives fu-  
perspectives into the preparation processes  
operation between the NGOs and the setting

the participants with valuable administrative experiences in the  
gender equality. In the future, these experiences will serve as useful and reliable sources in the  
work and activities of the Office for Women's Issues.

"Changing Roles" : A report on the Status of Women, 1997 was published in co-operation  
with the TARKI (Institute for Social Research) and the Ministry of Labour, this publication  
will be developed into a series of reports published yearly, to follow up the changes in women's  
status.

## The Detailed Discussion of the Implementation of the Items of The National Programme for Action

The deadline for implementation of The National Programme for Action was April  
which date coincided with the stepping down of the former government.

### 1. The Advancement of Women's Rights as Human Rights

#### Measures Planned:

a) To carry out studies over-viewing and evaluating the current legislative  
legislation by using comparative methods with the view of the harmonisation  
EU.

b) To set up of an assistance service for women in legal matter, especially in  
issue concerning the family.

c) Publication of information booklet on women's rights with special attention to the  
examples and best practices.

d) Training programmes for those working in public administration on gender issues

A number of studies have been carried out, and proposals for legislative reforms have been  
drafted. A telephone hot-line was established which was in service once a week. The practical  
guide book has not been produced. Basic information on the status of women and men in all  
sectors of social policy, and the principles of gender equality were not disseminated among the  
administrative staff and decision makers of public administration.

### 2. Measures for the implementation of equal opportunity for men and women

#### Measures Planned:

a) Investigation into the implementation of administrative measures ensuring equal opportunities in  
employment, drafting recommendation for further administrative steps to be taken.

b) Developing co-operation with the Council of the Representatives of Employers in  
in order to discuss the ways of ensuring equal opportunities for women employees in  
"collective contracts".



Some advances should be acknowledged in legislation, (see section Violence Against Women)

Recommendations for the prevention of violence and educational programmes about the issues of violence against women within public education has not been offered.

## 6. Co-ordination of the Programme for Action

### Measures Planned:

- a) Setting up of inter-ministerial committee for the co-ordination of state administrative measures to be taken in order to promote gender equality.
- b) Assistance will be provided for the co-ordination of the activities of NGOs in order to support their strengthening in structure and influence.

The inter-ministerial committee has been established.

The Civil Forum has been formed, "Civil Forum" provides opportunity for discussion between the representatives of women's organisations, trade unions, political parties, organisations of employers and employees, etc.

The specific programme servicing the needs of civic organisations in the matter of programme

proposals was set up in 1976.

## 7. Collection and dissemination of information and publications

research and statistics; the working  
ations should be prepared in order to  
s status, as well as the analysis of the data

In order for the better employment of the available data, various  
strategies of the collecting statistics should be reviewed, and  
include more statistical data  
perspective is essential.

with  
the

"Changing Roles", A Report on the Status of Women, 1997 was published in co-o  
TARKI (Institute for Social Research) and the Ministry of Labour. This publica  
fist of its kind and was well received by both experts, civic activists and the wider



ce for Women Issues,  
e 30, 1999,  
ns of the National Programme  
ot been accomplished

The Activities of t  
January  
with special reference to th  
for Action, which

analysis of the most crucial areas of women's  
tic violence and sexual harassment in the  
mediated  
mediated  
questions  
ed their

The "Civil Forum" provided the forum  
lives in Hungary: women's employme  
workplace, prostitution, women's health and the environment, etc. and the  
proposals for government action and legislation. The members of the Civil  
the issues concerned in working groups. With the assistance of the CEDAW  
for civic organisations the working groups identified the problem areas and

it clear that they find the working method of the Civil Forum, - in working groups - useful for their purposes and a fertile ground for public discussions, for making a variety of interests visible.

A training programme for the recognition and promotion of gender equality will be held for those working in state administration. In September 1999, the programme called "Managing Equality" will be launched within the framework of an European co-operation programme as part of international programme,

The development of a re-integration programme has been planned for the support of those women wanting to return to the labour market. The training of multipliers/trainers will start in 2000. The development of the training material for this programme is included in the Programme for Action.

The report on National Social Security Legislation an EU Law on Equal Treatment of Men and Women in Hungary has been assessed and evaluated in co-operation with the PHARE Consensus Programme. The study has been launched in 1998 and the final report was drafted

## II. FINANCIAL DATA

Report of the Ministry of Social and Family Affairs Department

	0	1995
		1110
	30 million HUF	
	20 million HUF	
	40 million HUF	
percentage of the above budget in the national budget		
	1,8%	
	3%	
of the National Programme for Action:		3. The finances allocated to the Imp
million HUF		1997
general reserve of the national budget for the year		These finances have been deducted from 1997.

Statistics in the Appendix.

See separately: the report of Central

### III. THE OVERVIEW OF SPECIAL AREAS INDICATED IN THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION

#### WOMEN'S QUALIFICATIONS SINCE 1995

Education has a crucial role in defining women's status in society. It is necessary to provide higher and higher levels of education in order to fulfil the domestic and international responsibilities of women in the labour market.

In the Hungarian educational scene similar tendencies can be seen to those of the more developed countries concerning the level of qualifications and education. Differences can be observed, however, in the timing of women's catching up with men (the process started in Hungary in the 1960s). Additionally, there are certain distinguishable differences in the distribution of professions.

Since 1995, the level of women's education has been rising. The proportion of those women among these women 60% graduated from secondary schools and 31% took part in vocational education. This distribution creates more opportunities for women, which process longer period of time further participation in higher education. The segregation of students' second-hand professions is considered - with women - will find their place in the labour market.

The segregation of professions according to gender is very strong in secondary vocational and trade schools. The situation is similarly to the situation found in developed countries, as female students seems to have increased slightly in technical and agricultural professions, which are considered to be typically male professions. It has not been enough feedback from the labour market yet to evaluate this phenomenon.

Since 1995, the number of participants in higher education has increased. The proportion of the female students in the higher education was 52.7% in the year 1994/95, 54.4% in the academic year 1995/96. The number of female students has been increasing since 1995. The proportion of female students has been higher in universities than in colleges. (In universities their proportion has increased from 41.6% to 49.2%, while in colleges it seems to remain the same.) Women's participation in the various professional areas at higher educational level has significantly changed during the last three years. The proportion of women has risen in technical and agricultural majors and faculties, which are traditionally male professions. This can be explained in two ways. Courses and programmes in state administration and business management have been introduced in these faculties, which may be combined with the already existing courses. Women enrolled in these courses in a greater number. It is a well known fact that women can enter those

professional areas more easily, which have been devalued by the processes of economy, which phenomenon is followed by the fact that male competition weakens. It is clearly a favourable

administrative areas, which play a very important role in the development of market economy

has decreased in the field of modern state administration, while women's education, which is held to be the most intensified

changeover to market economy

Generally speaking women in Hungary have realised

and the conditions in favour of their participation makes it requires qualifications. Consequently the younger generation makes efforts to maintain what is more to improve women's participation in all levels of education. This tendency is a positive one when compared to international statistics.

### The Contents and Structure of Public Education

In educational theory and in theories of epistemology, the development of personality and production of values are almost completely based on the old centrally regulated traditions of education. Knowledge and the process of learning are assumed to be mainly pre-planned and this isaverse to those educational theories which are based on co-operation and public participation. Teaching thinking which is based on the complexity of values and the multiplicity of viewpoints, subjectivity and "otherness" are considered to be alien notions to the current educational practices. The present Hungarian public education is still based on prescribed

skills which are necessary to participate and succeed in a modern democratic society.

questions, the issues of citizenship are almost "taboo" topics as yet.

The policy makers of public education also aspire to participate in the in the process of joining

the European Union and they claim to comply with the respective decisions

UNESCO, which means that educational policies should pay special attention

and for assisting the students to acquire

development of the student's well rounded

formation of a democratic society.

skills needed to be able to participate actively

to call attention to the stereotypical

The recent education theory and pra

views and attitudes which are predominant

the students' family background and the

strategies. The traditional, patriarchal treatment of the gender question (in fact, ignorance of

the gender question in education) hinders the students' successful participation, as

contribution in the rapidly changing social institutions and structures and the students' ability

to participate in decision making, the needs and methods of the development of autonomous

the ambitions and courses.

According to the statistical data the deficiency of women's education has not posed a problem

so far. Generally women's qualifications are higher than men's qualifications. However, we

may foresee the dangers of the outdated educational structures and contents. The contents of

public education fail to provide women with up-to-date knowledge needed in the rapidly

changing economic situation. These needs are met mostly by private schools. The organisation of flexible education has more and more financial and infrastructural requirements, which women - because of their less favourable, traditional social status - are less and less able to meet.

Other deficiency of the structure of education is that it undervalues the importance of skills of citizenship, skills of self-expression and the skills of meaningful communication. Social illiteracy, which means the inability to practise the rights of citizens, inability to articulate, inability to identify problems, greatly contributes to the problems of personal and social development, which are inevitable, therefore, unmanageable.

These deficiencies have been alleviated to a certain extent by training programmes of several Women's organisations, among which mobility training for women (Hungarian Women's Academy) leadership training (Hungarian Women's Academy) and participation in private enterprises were the most significant.

Although the structures of secondary and higher education have been continually updated/reformed, they do not contain elements supporting more flexible education for women. Programmes for distant education are almost absent, though this is the type of education which could be adjusted to the different needs of women in different situations and age-groups. Educational programmes which would assist women in increasing their responsibility for going back to work after many years spent with child rearing work are not present yet in the Hungarian educational system.

Urgent steps to be taken are the following:  
1. To examine and improve the textbooks and educational materials used in public education with the set purpose of ensuring equal opportunities for male and female students.

2. To include gender sensitivity in all areas of the educational areas prescribed in the NCO, including teacher training which should include, as an integral part, the curriculum contents and the teaching techniques.

3. To develop programmes for in-service teachers to promote conscious and gender sensitive teaching techniques in their own work.

4. To develop distant education programmes for women to promote their long learning (preferable in a modular structure).

5. To develop support programmes in all areas of higher education.

6. To develop support programmes in all areas of higher education.

### Nutrition and Lifestyle

It is a widely known fact that eating habits are mainly formed by cultural traditions. Hungarian

cuisine is tasty, but it uses a lot of fat, salt and all of which are known to have harmful effects on our health. The role of women is very important in spreading

healthy nutrition habits, as they are the main providers for women's initiatives in this important health issue. At least two year two positive models have

started in 1996 and was sponsored by the World Bank. The programme aspires to address women in the first place, who are believed to acquire nutrition habits easier than men. It is typical that men prefer traditional meals.

One of the most important tasks of health educators is the promotion of breastfeeding. Breast feeding has become a kind of fashion. The number of 0-6 month old infants breast fed has increased. (In 1997, 63.4% of the infants were fed by breast milk, this number has been rising ever since. According to a survey among pregnant women, healthy nutrition and keeping fit were thought to be the most important factors.)

The programme was organised called "Women's Health Means Family's Health" by the Hungarian Association of Nurses in 1997. This programme promoted the philosophy that women have a determining role in the forming of a family's harmonious lifestyle.

### Harmful Addictions

Students of secondary schools, more female students show that 30% of adult men and 27% of women smoke. An Act of protection of Non-Smokers was passed in 1999 by the Hungarian Parliament. An anti-smoking organisations' association was established by the National Public Health Policy Department, within the scope of Policy

Programme Against Smoking and Alcohol Use. Unfortunatly, women do not lag behind men in alcohol use. The number of deaths due to cirrhosis of liver among women has been increasing rapidly. This number increased between 1987-1993.

### The most common diseases and prevention programmes

International data show that many deaths could be easily avoided, in spite of the fact women in Hungary and in Bulgaria frequently die of these diseases.

In 1997, 50% of the diagnosed HIV patients were women (71 persons among school girls ametropia (error of reflection), spinal complaints a

leading health problem causes. Recent statistical data show that among the age group of 14-34 problems related to the deformation of backbone have risen.

Special exercises for improving healthy carriage are included in the syllabus of the University of Physical Education. Screenings are also introduced in order to prevent the occurrences of spinal complaints.

In the case of women older than 19 of age, registered at a family doctor health problems is high blood pressure.

The Hungarian Menopause Society was founded in 1996, which organizes menopause clubs all over the country.

In case of women older than 65, 12-14% suffer from osteoporosis, which is registered in the morbidity index.

As part of the national osteoporosis programme 93 osteoporosis centres have been established all over the country. Most of which are based at gynaecological screening centres. In

the case of women older than 75, heart diseases, diabetes mellitus and cerebrovascularis are the

most commonly occurring type cancer is breast cancer. Elderly women belong to the most endangered age group. Although one third of breast cancer is diagnosed with a tumour smaller than 50

the rate of diseases is worse among women, but the rate of death is worse with men. The explanation can be that women are more sensitive in judging their state of health than men. Additionally, the most common disease of women can be successfully cured. Women's way of life is healthier than men's. They lead a more regular and moderate life, consequently number of deaths is lower for them than in the male population.





Aggravating circumstances are

a.) the offended is under 12.

b.) the offended is being brought up, looked after or medically treated by the perpetrator.

c.) more persons practice sexual intercourse  
conscious of each other's actions.

The action is qualified more severe if the  
grievance of the offended under 12 and is ag

In respect to public act of indecency the 198  
way as the above.

The above acts in

person.

The 195/AS of the Penal Code prohibits of the production of pornography  
under the

1998/CXXXVII Act about the modification of the Penal Code

The Penal Code regulates the act of trafficking in persons among Crimes against freedom  
human dignity" 175/B(1). Those selling, purchasing somebody, handing, taking som  
over in recompense, exchanging or getting somebody for another person with this purp  
committing crime. Besides the basic form of the crime 175/B(1) also regulates the aggravated  
circumstances. It decrees punishment of the action in the preparatory interval for

The Status of the Victims in Criminal Procedures, the Protection of Victims

A new Criminal Proceeding Law has been introduced which is t  
regards 2000 to extend the rights of the offender of Crime

The Minister of Interior has issued the 1999/4 order related to the  
the ministry and the duties of the autonomous organisations below  
respect to the protection of victims. Its 3. and 4. points deal with the  
sexual crimes and the offended children under age. In case the victim  
has to be treated the way not to suffer more psychic damages.

can apply for compensation. Under age offended parties, victims (and their relatives)  
sexual crimes and crimes committed against life, offended parties of enduring bodily

sexual crimes and crimes committed against life, offended parties of enduring bodily  
need special attention and social consideration. Press

with the attention not to offend the victim

must be paid to the protection of

parties, victims of sexual crimes and in cases

frightened persons

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about crime and criminal report in

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of organised crimes of the black

The concept related to the

- The proposal related to reducing the damages of victims of violent crimes by the state has been drafted.

### Harassment in the Workplace

With respect to harassment in the workplace, in 1992 two Members of the Parliament presented a proposal, which was refused by the Parliament.

### Researches

- About domestic violence: Morvai, Krisztina
- Women in gaol: empirical research starting in September (OKKVI – Fehér, Lenke)

### Conferences

1996- 'East-West Conference on Prostitution and Trafficking in Women'. Three-day training for women's NGOs, conference on the topic of prostitution, force for prostitution and trafficking in persons. Organisers: Kádár, Zsuzsa; Fehér, Lenke. Sponsors: GAATW (main sponsor), COLPI, IOM, and Autonomous Trades Unions' Association.

1997- FEDIP – Finding the Way out Together Conference 'For a Europe without Prostitution and Trafficking in Persons'. (80 foreigner and 250 Hungarian participants) Publications: 100 Questions and Answers about Prostitution, the documents of the conference are under printing)

1998- The conference of the Boarding school at Rákospalota. Sponsors: Ministry of Social and

### Publications

- "Changing Roles" Report on the Status of Women, 1997. TARKI – Ministry of Labour
- Women Organisations

Working with Victims of Prostitution and Trafficking in Persons

Handbook to Manuscript

Following: development and implementation of effective methods for the violence, also introduced reforms in legislation.

- Steps to be taken
- Drafting a plan of elimination of
- of public education

# WOMEN AND ARMED CONFLICT



Hungarian government

1974-1975, 1976-1977, 1978-1979, 1980-1981, 1982-1983, 1984-1985, 1986-1987, 1988-1989, 1990-1991, 1992-1993, 1994-1995, 1996-1997, 1998-1999, 2000-2001, 2002-2003, 2004-2005, 2006-2007, 2008-2009, 2010-2011, 2012-2013, 2014-2015, 2016-2017, 2018-2019, 2020-2021, 2022-2023, 2024-2025

geographical restrictions which earlier ruled to accept refugees only from Europe. (1) Hungary is now open to accommodate refugees from outside Europe as well.

1989-1998, 13 187 applications were handed in for the recognition of refugee status. The applicants who received the refugee status in 1998 were women and 1 414 were

Applications for a refugee status are processed at the Office for Refugees and are placed at refugee camps and community shelters. A certain amount of the budget and the budget of the Ministry of Interior is designated to basic needs, (food and shelter). These finances cover the expenses of the Office for Immigration and the maintenance of the community shelters.

to apply for the refugee status in Hungary stay at the camps provided by the Office for Immigration and the other half is placed in shelters provided by the military at the border checkpoints.

Regulated rules - have to be observed in the refugee camps and at the community shelters.

In the refugee camps are taken care of for free. In addition, those who do not have a small sum of pocket money after three months of stay in one of the

Women are recognised and respected in the refugee camps. Special attention is given to women, together, and to keep the traditional social role of women in

is provided for the purpose of making it possible for the refugees from different cultural and religious backgrounds to observe their

employing social workers and volunteers to assist the professional social workers to give special help and attention to women. In addition, children of primary school age are given education in their native language.

The refugee situation makes it possible, when the conditions are favourable, to provide separate stays to the

refugee camps. Psychological treatment for the traumatised women and children and post-trauma treatment are also provided.

It would be desirable to call the attention of UNHCR and local governments to the situation of single women with children in refugee

of refugees

of refugees

of refugees

Half of those who apply for the refugee status in Hungary stay at the camps provided by the Office for Immigration and the other half is placed in shelters provided by the military at the border checkpoints.

Strict - though regulated rules - have to be observed in the refugee camps and at the community shelters.

Those who do not have a small sum of pocket money after three months of stay in one of the

Cultural and religious care is taken to keep the traditional social role of women in

All assistance required for the purpose of making it possible for the refugees from different nationalities and religious backgrounds to observe their

Employing social workers and volunteers to assist the professional social workers to give special help and attention to women. In addition, children of primary school age are given education in their native language.

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be initiated to support women in their coping with their new

circumstances. Social programs

in the community shelters

it may cause public health danger that people who r

ely from the inhabitants of the shelter, while those who stay at

cannot be placed

to stay in quarantine until after health screening

refugee camps a

take place in the community shelter, however, even in those cases

Health screening

who are screened share the accommodation and sometimes even

when it takes p

not tested.

beds with those

of the Constitution, especially in the Balkan War situation which has led to the

of the increased number of immigrants - for economic or political reasons - to cross the

working conditions

it was observed that the accommodation situation of the refugees at

the military shelters at the immigration checkpoints are overcrowded and consequently they

to meet the most fundamental hygiene needs in order to avoid diseases

for men and women. No detergent, soap, etc. are provided

man for citizen rights ordered the closing of Miskolc community shelter and one

the Balassagyarmat community shelter.

of the Hungarian Helsinki Committee, the system of community shelters must be

a strategically structured refugee shelter system which should be guided by a

clearly defined refugee policy. Such institutionalized system of community shelters which exist

in Hungary today are unknown in the European Union. In addition, the Hungarian Helsinki

Committee proposed to ensure the suitable financial resources from the state budget, in order

to improve the quality of the refugee camps and in order to cover the costs of responsible

strategic planning and decision making. Further financial resources should be allocated to

Office for Refugees and Immigration.

and the situation of media has frequently become a controversial issue in the last Hungary. Public arguments about the imminent media legislation are influenced interests of party politics - making it difficult to clarify the real functions of the characteristic directions seem to be outlined. In the printed press and electronic public events - the discussion of party politics.

icipation is not considered to be political participation; the microphone of "public sphere" is not negotiated. As a consequence, the value of civic participation and the contribution is low. Criticism of the public sphere and encouragement of the expression of civic interests and comments are not approached in the other direction.

of the global economic flows as a result of economic globalization. These, together with the TV commercials, intend to convey the messages of a consumer society free from difficulties. These types of the media do not take on as a mission of discussing the issues of public importance and public opinion.

According to the evidence of international and Hungarian surveys, time spent with the "consumption of media" has risen, which phenomenon goes parallel with the increase in the significance of the socialisation effects of the media. This process can be observed among the younger generations in Hungary, as well. Young people's way of thinking, their value systems.

ence by the media. In individual way in Hungary, as well. The media is also defined by the social division of labour, the which permeate inequalities. Stereotypical representations of for those searching for identity. The conveying of one-sided aspects of the acceptance of those images as real. Therefore it is the images of women and relationships of the TV, radio and electronic media and press.

between 1995-1997, in the fact that women are still presented as consider their own beauty as the most important issue, and perceive pleasing the eye. In reality, women represent themselves in all e occupied by men earlier, and those women who live more and t a new life-style. This life-style is more and more visible. The ty-oriented women appears mainly in commercials. The other men shown in commercials is "the image of the housewife, who geratedly wealthy environment suggesting that a women world and within the flat, housework, cleaning and scrubbing. These images zines, as well.

specialists in 1996, which in the form of hidden that they challenged the ons of advertisements are an rights drawn up in the 97, contain only general

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of political and economic power  
of the global economic flows as a result of economic globalization  
These, together with the TV commercials, intend to convey the messages of a consumer  
society free from difficulties. These types of the media do not take on as a mission of  
discussing the issues of public importance and public opinion.

and behaviour are sh  
by the impulses rece  
development of socia  
Women may serve as  
female images may ind  
extremely important  
which are presented

There has been no  
passive participant  
their main social f  
professions which  
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stereotypical and  
generally appear  
competence is co  
dominate in wom

A great number of giant posters were exhibited in the  
emphasised the treatment of women as sexual objects  
pornography. Certain posters turned out to be so pro  
tolerance of the otherwise patient and uninvolved public. The  
mainly based on economic interests and the basic principle  
constitution. An Act on advertising, introduced in Scot  
prohibitions and limitations, e.g. it forbids advertisements which would offend the

dignity and would encourage violence, and which would be deemed to be frightening and harmful to the moral development of children and the young.

The Act assigns the task of monitoring of the advertisements to the Office for the Protection of Consumer Rights and to the Office of Fairness of Competition in Economy.

The predomination of economic power and the promotion of consumer culture seems to severely underestimate the importance of those norms and requirements which should be negotiated by the general public.

Human relations, feelings, tolerance, the issues of equality and credibility and the issues of private life are topics which are difficult to introduce into the world of advertising and consumer culture. The borderlines of economic, public and private spheres generally remain undiscussed and consequently unquestioned.

It is a well known practice in the Western European countries that self-regulating organisations participants of the media take care of the concerns of the public.

Regulating Organisation for Advertisers exists formally in Hungary its role in the making, and its efficiency is insignificant.

Members of an organisation Club for the Public, analysing TV news and two soap operas, stated that news programmes were definitely male centred and reinforced the existing gender stereotypes. Topics presented by men and women were actively separated in news programmes. Men speak about state affairs, while women speak about affairs which are considered to be local and insignificant, and many times scandalous and extreme. Women are often presented as infantile beings. Male roles appear in the news. News programmes often used the image of women to convey ideologically loaded convictions. When analysing the Beijing Conference, the news about this conference was made ridiculous.

Research results on the attitudes suggested by the news programmes show that popular TV soap opera series present the real world of women as the private sphere.

Research results on national attitudes in Hungary. The Media Act prohibits any regulations which would restrict the freedom of the press, however, it prohibits those representations which are harmful to the public dignity. A group of women's organisations started a campaign in public discourse on the Media Act. The purpose of the campaign was to draw attention to those provisions containing sexist pornographic images and representations which restrict the freedom of the press (Working Group-Air, Forum Against Violence, Green Women)

These images because presenting women in this way may contribute to the violence against women. To present the theme of violence against women, a women's organisation, NANE, Women together Against Violence organised an exhibition of women's artresses. This exhibition has been displayed at various locations since 1998.

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and trivialised, and most often were relegated to the private sphere.

Very few initiatives are directed to change the attitudes which were introduced in 1996. One of the most important initiatives is the Media Act which restricts the sexist representations in the media, which would contribute to the connection with violence against women. The Media Act restricts representations which would encourage violence against women.

It is necessary to change the public acceptance of violence against women, a women's organisation organised an exhibition with the title "Women's Artresses" at various locations since 1998.

Women's NGOs very rarely have the opportunity to start media campaigns or to influence the media through conferences. During the general elections 1998, the Programme Office initiated a campaign called "Women's Votes '98" to inform women via the media.

It is a positive phenomenon that several daily papers regularly present written testimonies of successful women. However, it is a negative phenomenon that newspapers publish articles about women, whose content and style are undisputedly against women, sometimes using some of the characteristics of stereotypical image suggested by the media. The Parliament Celebration of Women's Day in 1999

the ways of changing the female image. (A woman-person) has been the subject of social processes which discriminate against women who reject stereotypical gender

and sponsored by feminist Network, with additional occasions. Because of the lack of financial resources the journal has not been published yet in 1999.

in a wider context

interest area is in gender studies. The HIR-NOK offers information in the following topic areas: women's issues in Hungary, gender studies, the

latest news and information on issues, education, arts and sciences, etc.

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Computer technology makes it possible for women to receive and send messages in a public context. A mailing list was introduced on the Internet for the

The HIR-NOK internet electronic web site provides the latest news and information on issues, education, arts and sciences, etc.

Theoretically women working in the traditional areas of media may change negative schemes. As the commercial radio and TV channels the number of women has risen in the profession of journalism.

However, the profession is rather segregated, women work mainly as reporters of their work as TV presenters. Due to the inner mechanisms of the profession foreign correspondents only in exceptional cases. It is a positive example, if women were appointed the chief editors of two nationwide daily newspapers. It is important for the women working in journalism as well, to be informed about discrimination against women and to acquire attitudes free from stereotypes.





of the gender roles seem to have been strengthened since the In Hungary the tradition

women those experiencing poverty are the old-age pensioners, those bringing up children on maternity benefit and the housewives. Among men most of them are dependent old-age pensioners and employees. Concerning ethnic groups poverty is particularly high among such groups where bringing up children on their own and those living alone. It is known that over there is only one breadwinner in the family poverty is not a certain point poverty is growing with the number of the family members, among large families there are more people living in poverty.

A significant division in the status of women among different social layers is noticeable. Women bringing up more children are in the most disadvantageous situation regarding their financial condition and also their chances for employment. Their health conditions can be characterised as disadvantageous as well since they are burdened heavily, which situation includes several diseases. Other women, on the other hand, support the arrangement of the household, though it is to be stated, and its effects will arise only in the university level. The Institute for Behavioural Sciences at the SOTE (Semmelweis University) has started a project with the aim of large scale co-operation from all areas of social life. The project is in the processes of carrying out the surveys, but the first partial results are available. These results underline the description given above added the alarming facts concerning domestic violence.

The difference between the typically male and female jobs is that the latter has less prestige and is paid worse. More women than men work in jobs not requiring skills and fewer women in leading positions. These differences cannot be the results of the differences in qualifications. Within certain jobs there are also differences between the genders concerning the workplaces (branch, employer) to the men's advantage (they work in better-paid jobs).

It also has to be emphasised that in such new activities as private business women are in more disadvantageous conditions. They are those who set up businesses – which are small ones, exist on the principle of self-exploitation therefore they are less protected. Moreover, a higher percentage of self-employed women work in commerce where the bankruptcy is higher.

Though in some cases the data are controversial, as a summary it can be stated that women's working life should be placed before family life. They are not able to coordinate the two spheres of their lives and would like to decrease the time spent at the workplace. Women's status is determined by the financial conditions and the opportunities than the family situation is rather affected by these difficulties when trying to balance the two spheres of their lives and would like to decrease the time spent at the workplace. Women's status is determined by the financial conditions and the opportunities than the family situation is rather affected by these difficulties when trying to balance the two spheres of their lives and would like to decrease the time spent at the workplace.

1 January 1999, which offers the schooling benefit and the possibility of having children and grandchildren by both parents without distinction.

The Government introduced a new system to support families with children better conditions. The family allowance and childcare benefit have become civil rights improving bringing them up. Benefits supporting the family at the same time without distinction.







Gross National Income (GNI)

Net foreign interest expenditure	-200 601	-182 474	-177 786
Foreign dividend			
Dividend distributed	3 665	4 041	5 602
Dividend received	-58 535	-110 183	-217 037
Balance of dividend	-54 870	-106 142	-211 435
<b>Net income of property</b>	<b>-205 471</b>	<b>-182 616</b>	<b>-180 221</b>
Deferred revenue of Companies	-99 572	-170 013	-292 162

Population, 1 January 1998

	Male	Female	Total
Population	4 817 562	5 274 227	10 091 789

Population by age groups, 1 January 1998

0-4	269 644	254 995	524 639
0-14	893 417	851 209	1 744 626
15-49	2 582 486	2 550 635	5 133 121

Urban/rural population, 1 January 1998

	Male	Female	Total
Urban	3 016 256	3 393 398	6 409 654
Rural	1 801 306	1 880 829	3 682 135
Total	4 817 562	5 274 227	10 091 789

Population growth rate, 1998

Male: -0.4  
Female: -0.5

Population decrease (%)

-0.5

Total fertility rate, 1998: 1.33

Fertility rate for women aged 15-

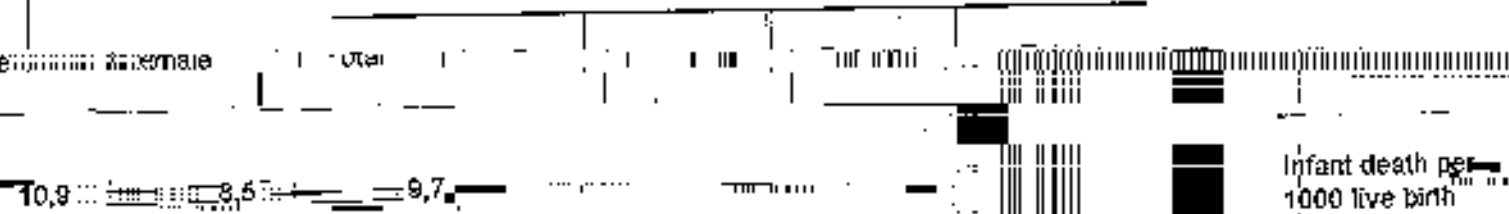
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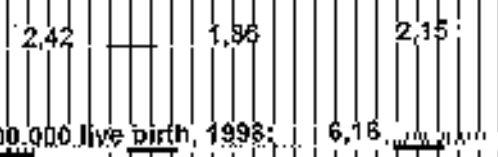
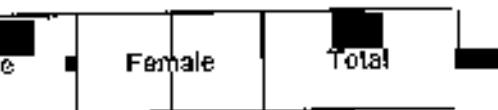
### Life expectancy at birth, 1998

	Male	Female	Total
Life expectancy at birth	66,1	75,1	70,48

### Infant mortality rate, 1998



### Mortality rate, 1998



Contraceptive rate, 1993: 72,6 %

by trained health personnel, 1993: 99,5

per 10000 population), 1998: 0,763

Infant death per 1000 live birth

Under

Under five death per 100,000 population

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% of births

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# Gender equality in education

Ratio of hours in primary and

secondary education combined

(1998) 0.91%

Ratio of literate females to  
males at ages 15-24

(1996) 0.95

**Economic activity of population aged 15-74  
1998**

	Male	Female	Total
Unemployment ratio, %	8,5	7,0	7,8
Employment-population ratio	54,9	41,0	47,7
<b>% of labour force engaged</b>			
in agriculture,	10,4	4,1	7,5
in industry,	41,2	25,6	34,2
in services	48,5	70,3	58,3

**% of labour force by employment status  
1998**

	Male	Female	Total
<i>Employee</i>	81,3	88,7	84,6
<i>Member of co-operatives</i>	1,9	1,1	1,5
<i>Member of partnership</i>	4,2	2,6	3,5
<i>Self-employed</i>	12,1	6,6	9,4

# HUNGARY

## GDP and GNI at current prices 1995-1997

	1995	1996	1997
Gross Domestic Product			
in million HUF	5 685 390	6 968 839	8 540 237
Gross Domestic Product			
in million USD*	44 666	45 185	45 733
Gross National product			
in million HUF	5 225 358	6 393 965	7 819 389
Gross National product			
in million USD*	41 573	41 908	41 871
Per capita GDP, in HUF	548 836	676 315	841 039
Per capita GDP, in USD*	4 316	4 367	4 167
Per capita GNI, in HUF	476 676	510 838	510 838

exchange rates =

SO

Calculated

Source: I

## Household income per capita

Year	HUF/year/capita
1995	189 984
1996	214 071
1997	254 646



## Human security and social justice

	Male	Female	Total
No. of victims of violence per 1000 people	43,7	20,1	31,4
No. of persons in prison per 1000 people	280,4	15,6	142,0

Source: Ministry of Interior



# Indicators on Education

Country	Year	Male	Female	Total
				Adult literacy rate of 15-24 year olds
				Net primary enrollment ratio
				% reaching grade 5
				Net secondary enrollment ratio
				Average number of years of schooling